

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Claims 8-15, 21-27, and 30-34 are now pending, of which claims 11, 23, and 26 are independent. By this amendment, claims 1-7 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 8 has been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

It is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File because the amendments to the claims clearly place the application in condition for allowance. In particular, Applicants note that claims 1-7 have been canceled.

Claim Amendments

Applicants have amended claim 8 to recite that the steam is delivered to the tub.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the telephone interview conducted on April 1, 2009. An Examiner Interview Summary was made of record as Paper No. 20090401. During the interview, Applicants' representative discussed a proposed amendment to independent claim 1. Agreement was not reached whether the proposed amendment would define over the art of record.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kenreich; claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenreich in view of Muhr; claims 3, 4, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenreich in view of Muhr, and in further view of Kwok; and claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenreich in view of Muhr and Kwok, and in further view of Tanigawa. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-7 have been canceled, thus rendering these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 8-15, 21-27, and 30-34 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that these claims are allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad D. Wells Reg. No. 50,875 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 20, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By James T. Eller, Jr. ^{# 40,953}
Registration No.: 39,538
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

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